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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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WOOL-80

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# WORLD WOOL PROSPECTS

## Summary

Conditions in the domestic wool market have improved considerably in the last few months. Price quotations on wool at Boston have shown no distinct change since the middle of October, but a larger proportion of the wool is now being sold at quoted prices than earlier in the season. After declining slightly in the early part of December, prices in Southern Hemisphere markets were reported to be very firm just prior to the close for the holiday season. The large quantities of wool to be marketed in those countries during the first part of 1935, however, will probably prevent any material increase in foreign prices during the next few months. Price changes in the domestic market are also expected to be small during the remainder of the 1934-35 selling season (to April 1, 1935).

Manufacturing activity in domestic wool textile mills was greatly expanded in October and mill consumption for that month was greater than at any time since the first quarter of the year. Preliminary reports indicate that this improvement was maintained during November and the early part of December. Manufacturing activity also continued to improve in November in the wool industry of the United Kingdom with a resulting decrease in unemployment in that country. The British Ministry of Labour reports that 13.2 percent of insured workers in the woolen and worsted industry were registered as unemployed on November 26 compared with 14.4 percent on October 22 and 9.2 percent in November 1933.

Receipts of domestic wool at Boston reported to the Boston Grain and Flour Exchange in the first 8 months (April to November) of the present season were only 167,000,000 pounds. This was about 30 percent

smaller than receipts reported from April to November 1933 and 22 percent smaller than the average for those months in the 5 years 1929-1933.

Figures 1 and 2 at the end of this release and the tables on pages 13 - 17 show the trend of consumption of combing and clothing wool by manufacturers in the United States, from 1920 to 1934. Reported consumption is shown by origin and also by grades in quantities and in the percentage each division is of the total. The footnotes to the tables explain the limitations in the statistics available for this period.

There was very little, if any, improvement in the condition of sheep on western ranges of the United States in November. As a result of last summer's drought and a continuance of unfavorable conditions the 1935 wool clip is still expected to be smaller than for several years. Official estimates of the number of livestock in Russia in 1934 indicate that the clip in that country, which is principally of the coarse carpet type, was about 3 percent larger than the small clip of 1933 estimated at 138,000,000 pounds, and was about the same as in 1932. Production in 1934 in the other 20 countries for which estimates are available was approximately 2,713,000,000 pounds or 1 percent above 1933 but 3 percent below production in 1932.

The total movement of the current wool clip from the five Southern Hemisphere countries up to November 30 was still substantially below the same 5 months of last season, and a satisfactory clearance appears to depend at least in part upon making barter arrangements to finance German purchases and the drawing up of reciprocal agreements with some of the other importing countries. Argentina and Uruguay so far have exported less wool than was the case during the first 2 months of last season. Exports from Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa are greatly below

those for the corresponding period of last season and stocks on December 1 were unusually large.

Apparent supplies of wool on hand in Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa on December 1 were approximately 24 percent greater than at the same time a year ago and 10 percent above the preceding 5-year average on that date. As only 2 months of the South American season have passed, shipments from those countries have not reached substantial proportions as yet.

## Market Situation

### United States

Business has been good in the Boston wool market during the past month. R. L. Burrus of the Boston office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that, from the standpoint of volume, trade in spot wools has been better than at any time since the latter part of January. Prices generally have shown little change.

Recent sales have been predominantly of fine wools. The trend of demand toward the better type of wools which was noted last month continued to some extent, but the bulk of the business is still for average and inferior wools. The best selling lines of territory wools were 64s, 70s, 80s and 58s, 60s of average French combing or shorter staple which were available under 70 cents a pound, scoured basis. Graded French combing 64s and finer wools sold in the range 68-73 cents scoured basis. Graded French combing 58s, 60s (1/2 blood) also had a good demand at 68-70 cents scoured basis. Clothing types of these grades brought 65-67 cents for 64s and finer and 63-65 cents for 58s, 60s. Graded straight strictly combing lots of these grades were not wanted in any appreciable quantity. Original bag territory wools of bulk 64s and finer grades moved freely in lines of average or short staple. Of the medium territory wools 56s (3/8 blood) had a fair call, at 65-68 cents scoured basis for strictly combing and 60-62 cents for clothing, but demand was very slow on strictly combing 48s, 50s (1/4 blood) at 60-62 cents scoured basis.

Texas wools received a fairly good demand with the bulk of the movement on 12 months wools of ordinary to average staple at 68-70 cents. Very choice 12 months wool brought 73-75 cents. Eight months Texas wools were sold at 60-65 cents scoured basis and fall wools at 45-50 cents scoured basis.

Fine and medium grades of Ohio and similar fleece wools were sold in moderate quantities, but wools grading 1/4 blood and lower were practically neglected. Ohio and similar 56s (3/8 blood) of strictly combing order sold at 69 cents a pound in the grease and clothing qualities at

26-27 cents. Of the finer fleeces, fine delaine (64s, 70s, 80s strictly combing) had the best call at 27-28 cents in the grease, strictly combing 58s, 60s (1/2 blood) sold at 28-29 cents and French combing of similar grade brought 24-26 cents.

Scoured pulled and shorn wools were in good demand late in November and prices moved slightly higher. Demand was slower in December, but prices remained firm. Demand for noils was good in November and early December and prices advanced 3 to 5 cents a pound.

A fair amount of business was transacted in wool tops. Most of the sales were on 64s, 60s and in-between types with respect to grade and for average to short staple. Prices were largely in the range 84-89 cents, good average oil combed 64s bringing 87-88 cents, occasionally 89 cents, while the inferior types of 64s and ordinary 64s, 60s sold at 84-86 cents. There was little demand for lower grades except for some deliveries on old contracts. Deliveries of 60s and 64s tops, however, were very large, and in some cases when stocks of particular grades were small, specifications were given more rapidly than topmakers could make deliveries.

Manufacturing activity in the United States wool textile industry increased rapidly after the settlement of the strike of textile workers in September. Consumption in October was greater than in any month since the first quarter of the year and unofficial reports indicate that the improvement was maintained in November. The Bureau of the Census reports that after an adjustment for the variation in the number of working days the consumption of combing and clothing wool on a clean equivalent basis, by 509 identical mills in the 4 weeks ended October 27 was 91.1 percent higher than in the 5 weeks ended September 29. Total consumption of such wool by mills representing practically the entire industry was 12,708,000 pounds in clean equivalent in the 4 weeks ended October 27 compared with 7,967,000 pounds consumed in the 5 weeks ended September 29.

Receipts of domestic wool at Boston in October and November were smaller than in those months of the 2 preceding years, but were above the average for the 5 years, 1929-1933. Total receipts from April 1 to November 30, however, remained well below average. Only 167,000,000 pounds were reported to the Boston Grain and Flour Exchange in those months of the present season compared with 242,000,000 pounds last season and an average of 215,000,000 pounds for the April to November period in the 5 years 1929 to 1933.

Trend of consumption, United States, 1920-1934

The tables on pages 13 to 17 and the figures at the end of this report show the consumption of combing and clothing wool reported by United States manufacturers by grade and origin with the percentage each quality group was of the total in the years 1920-1933 and the 6 months periods, January - June 1932-1934. The figures were compiled from the monthly consumption reports issued by the Bureau of the Census. Figures reported by the Bureau were converted to a grease basis by using representative yields varying with grade, condition, and origin of wool. Figures for

1920 and 1921 are for all manufacturers. Beginning in April 1922 no estimates were included for manufacturers who failed to report and figures from April 1922 to June 1934 represent only 75 to 80 percent of the industry.

Consumption of combing and clothing wool in this country has declined considerably since 1922 with the greatest decline occurring prior to 1926. The decline has been entirely at the expense of the foreign wool consumption. The marked increase in United States wool production since 1922 has resulted in an increase in consumption of domestic wool. See Figure 1 at end of report. In 1932 and 1933 in fact, domestic growers supplied approximately 95 percent of the combing and clothing wool consumed by United States manufacturers reporting to the Bureau of the Census. The proportion of domestic wool to the total was slightly reduced in the first half of 1934. See table, page 13.

With the exception of the low quality wools grading 36s to 46s, all grades of combing and clothing wool shared in the general decline in consumption in this country from 1922 to 1926. Since 1926, however, there has been a marked increase in the consumption of wools grading 58s, 60s, (1/2 blood) and finer but consumption of 56s (3/8 blood) and coarser wools has declined. See table, page 14. The proportion of fine wool in the consumption of combing and clothing wools by United States mills has increased rapidly since 1922. In that year wools grading 58s, 60s (1/2 blood) and finer represented 45 percent of the total and in 1933 consumption of such wool had increased to 63 percent of the total. A decline to 55 percent was reported, however, in the first half of 1934. The proportion of wool grading 48s, 50s (1/4 blood) consumed has declined sharply in the last decade but the proportion of other grades consumed has not changed greatly. See table, page 15 and Figure 2 at end of report.

Statistics on the consumption of domestic wool by grades, in quantity and in the percentage each grade represents of the total consumption of domestic wool are shown in the tables on pages 16 and 17. These statistics likewise show a marked increase in the consumption of the finer quality wools and may be assumed to indicate the trend of merino and crossbred or medium wool production in the United States in the last decade.

United Kingdom

The final series of London auctions for 1934 opened November 20 and closed December 11. Total offerings at the sales were 25,000 to 30,000 bales less than originally intended and competition was good during the entire series and was helped by orders from Germany in the final days of the sales. Prices at the opening of the series were about equal to the prices paid at the previous series for some qualities but most wools showed a decline of about 5 percent. Prices were fairly well maintained during the final series and at the close of the sales showed little change compared with the opening quotations. Approximately 120,000 bales were sold during this series. Bradford buyers took 63,500 bales, Continental buyers, 55,500 bales, and American buyers, 1,000 bales, while 105,500 bales were carried forward to the first series for 1935 now scheduled to open on January 15.

The market for raw wool and tops at Bradford has been quite steady since the close of the London sales. While business with the home trade has not shown much expansion Germany has placed sizeable orders for merino matchings and dry combed tops. Topmakers are reported to be well employed. The rate of turnover in tops at the Bradford conditioning house in November was the highest since March, though less than a year ago. The total quantity of tops conditions in the first 11 months of 1934 was considerably smaller than in the same period of the 2 previous years. Only 46,950,000 pounds were conditioned from January to November of this year compared with 55,963,000 pounds and 51,705,000 pounds in the same months of 1933 and 1932 respectively. The Weekly Wool Chart (Bradford) index number for raw wool prices in November was 64 (English currency basis, July 1914 = 100) compared with 65 in October, 102 at the high point in January, and 87 in November 1933. The corresponding index for tops showed no change during the month, remaining at 72 compared with 111 in January and 97 in November 1933. The index for yarns rose one point in November to 92 compared with 121 in January and 111 in November 1933.

Preliminary reports indicate that machinery activity continued to improve in November and early December with a resulting decrease in unemployment. The Ministry of Labor reports that 13.2 percent of insured workers in the woolen and worsted industry were registered as unemployed on November 26 compared with 14.4 percent on October 22 and 24.3 percent at the high point in 1934. Only 9.2 percent were registered in November 1933.

Imports of wool into the United Kingdom in November remained below imports for the same month of the 2 previous years. Only 34,000,000 pounds of foreign and colonial wool were retained in November of this year compared with 49,000,000 in November 1933 and 40,000,000 in November 1932. Since consumption was undoubtedly considerably larger than the amount of imports retained there was a further decrease in stocks of wool during the month. Exports of woolen and worsted tissues from the United Kingdom showed a slight decline in November and were also slightly smaller than in November 1933. Total exports for the first 11 months of the year, however, were about 10 percent larger than in the same months of 1933 and were larger than for the same period in any year since 1930.

## Continental Europe 1/

The somewhat more hopeful tone prevailing on continental wool markets in October continued during November though the irregularity of prices tended to restrict business. In Italy, in particular, the trade was reluctant to make commitments, largely as a result of uncertainty about the Government's policy in regard to import purchase restrictions. Important government measures during the month of November included the prohibition by the Italian Government of imports of wool yarns and wool fabrics, and the conclusion by Germany of compensation, or barter, agreements for wool with Argentina and South Africa.

1/ Report of Donald F. Christy, Assistant Agricultural Attache at Berlin.

France

Satisfactory business in top was reported during November, as a result of favorable occupation of worsted yarn spinners who continued to receive a fair amount of new orders notably from knitting mills. Demand for noils was also very active, in the face of reduced production. It was reported that Germany was in the market for top, but that the difficulties of payment under the clearing agreements have hampered business with that country.

Less satisfactory was the situation of woolen spinners, and the retail trade is reported to have complained of unsatisfactory current sales to the consuming public.

Belgium

Rather satisfactory occupation (at least, in relation to previous months) was reported by worsted spinners who, as in France, received an appreciable amount of new orders from weaving and particularly knitting mills. Other sections of the wool industry complained of unsatisfactory occupation - a situation which was somewhat relieved by recent orders placed for the delivery of military uniforms.

Sales of top and noils are reported to have been made not only to the domestic market, but also to France, Czechoslovakia, Poland and, to some extent, Germany. Business with the latter country, however, was hampered by payment difficulties.

Italy

Italian buyers on overseas markets showed a waiting attitude and turnover within Italy was also restricted. Lively business was reported only for domestic wool and for noils. The full significance of the Government's import purchase contingenting policy is not yet clear and this, of course, has hampered business.

The seasonal decline of wool imports in the third quarter this year was much more pronounced than in previous years, imports being reduced to about one-third of last year's. In recent months, imports of washed wools have gained in importance as compared with wool in the grease.

Occupation of the Italian wool industry showed a slight decline toward the end of September. At that time the occupation of worsted spinners and of weavers was about 12 percent below last year, whereas occupation of wool spinners held on about the same level as last year.

During November the Italian Government prohibited the importation of wool yarns and wool fabrics. This measure mainly affects Germany and England, and to a lesser extent France and Czechoslovakia. It is provided that imports may be permitted on the basis of a special license, but it is not expected that such licenses will be granted in any great volume.

Germany

Within the limit of the governmental restrictions on purchases, buying activity of the German industry was lively and included domestic wool as well as noils and top. Some wool was also secured through new arrangements made with Argentina and South Africa, according to which these countries will supply raw wool to Germany on a compensation or other special payment basis. Reports from France and Belgium indicate that Germany, within her clearing agreements with those countries, has resumed her top and noils purchases. Business, however, was not large and was hampered by the unsatisfactory functioning of the clearing arrangements.

Prices for foreign wool and top in Germany tended downward as a result of the strict price supervision through which the authorities are attempting to reduce the domestic German price level of foreign wool and wool products to world market parity.

Southern Hemisphere

The first half of the 1934-35 selling season is now over in Australia and the Union of South Africa and the new season is well under way in New Zealand and South American countries. The quantities offered for sale, however, have thus far been considerably less than last season, due to seasonal factors and to the reluctance of growers to sell at current prices. Hence the major portion of the new clip will remain to be offered after the holidays. While supplies in producing countries appear to be large, the situation is believed to be partly balanced by the position in consuming countries. Imports into the principal European countries in 1934 were much smaller than in 1933. The increased activity reported in these countries since September should create a need for supplies of raw wool.

Opening quotations for the season in Australia and South Africa in most cases were 20 to 30 percent below the closing prices of the 1933-34 season. This decline probably caused many producers to withhold their wool from the market. While prices in the first half of the season have been somewhat irregular, the fluctuations have been within fairly narrow limits.

A slight improvement was reported in the Australian market in the first half of December, due chiefly to an increased demand from continental buyers. Prices at the sales at Geelong on December 12 and 13 were reported to be at par to 5 percent higher than at the next previous sale at that center in November. The average price received for greasy wool in all Australian selling centers was 16.3 cents (at current rate of exchange) in November compared with 15.5 cents in October and 27.2 cents in November 1933.

Prices declined slightly at the South African sales in the first half of November, but the market was much firmer in the latter part of the month. Prices now ruling in South African centers are below the highest levels of the season to date, but show an improvement when compared with the opening prices for this season's wool. Good prices were paid for well classed clips at the November auctions in Port Elizabeth, but seedy and shabby wools were somewhat neglected. France was the principal buyer at the November sales in Port Elizabeth, but Bradford was also active. The

Durban sales were suspended in the final week of November pending the publication of arrangements whereby Germany will be enabled to buy wools. An arrangement has now been reached and German purchasers are expected to operate at coming sales.

The New Zealand selling season opended with the sale at Auckland on November 27. The market at the opening was very irregular and prices were reported to be about 30 percent below the opening rates of the previous season. Japan and Bradford were the principal buyers. Trading showed considerable improvement at the sales held at Napier, Wellington, and other centers in December and prices increased slightly.

South American markets reported slightly lower prices the middle of December.

## Supply Situation

### United States

Prospects for the 1935 wool clip have not improved to any extent and it is still expected to be smaller than for several years as a result of the severe drought of the summer of 1934.

There was very little, if any, improvement in the condition of sheep on western ranges during November and they are generally in a low condition. Ranges are also in poor condition except in Washington, Oregon, and California where there is ample feed to carry livestock through the winter, according to information contained in the Western Livestock and Range Report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates. In most of the other western range states any great amount of severe weather would result in a serious situation.

However, the weather was very mild up to the first of December and so far have favored the livestock situation, and fall and winter losses have been few so far. The present supply of feed does not appear sufficient to carry the number of livestock held over. Government purchase of ewes has given the sheepmen an opportunity to dispose of their old and weak ewes which has helped the situation materially. Up to December 1 Emergency Drought Purchases of ewes amounted to 3,561,000. It is planned to purchase about 5,000,000 ewes.

The condition of sheep on western ranges on December 1 was 75 percent of normal compared with 72 percent on November 1, 82 percent on December 1 a year ago, and a 10-year average of 90 percent. Range conditions on December 1 were only 58 percent of normal compared with 55 percent on November 1, 73 percent on December 1, a year ago, and a 10-year average of 81 percent.

### Soviet Union

There was a slight increase in the number of sheep and goats in the Soviet Union in 1934 compared with the low point reached in 1933, according to official estimates published recently. In the spring of 1934 the number was estimated at 51,936,000, an increase of 3 percent compared with 1933. Sheep numbers were not reported separately. The number of sheep, however, may be estimated at approximately 47,300,000

assuming that sheep retain the same relation to the total number as in earlier years.

Upon this assumption, wool production in Russia in 1934 was approximately 142,000,000 pounds or the same as in 1932. In 1933 only 138,000,000 pounds was produced in Russia compared with the record post-war production of 394,000,000 pounds in 1929.

Argentina

Argentina has been experiencing a rather wet spring. On the whole pastoral conditions are reported as excellent with feed plentiful.

The current clip is still estimated at 366,000,000 pounds or about 5 percent above that of last season. Most of the increase is in the finer types of wool, the increase in fine and medium crossbred and merino combined being approximately 8 percent or 19,000,000 pounds. On the other hand there was a decrease in coarse crossbred of about 1,000,000 pounds.

The distribution of the current Argentine wool clip by grades as estimated by the Buenos Aires Branch of the First National Bank of Boston was roughly as follows, the quantities being given in millions of pounds with comparable figures for last season given in parentheses: Coarse crossbred,114 (115); medium crossbred, 84 (76); fine crossbred, 117(108); merino, 51(49). Coarse crossbred comprises about 31 percent of the clip, medium, 23 percent, fine 32 percent, and merino 14 percent, according to this estimate of the Boston Bank. Another estimate made in 1933 by Dr. Pablo Link of Argentina is as follows: Coarse crossbred, 40 percent; native (criollo), 5 percent; medium crossbred, 20 percent; fine crossbred,20 percent; and merino, 15 percent. The bulk of the coarse crossbred, about 90 percent, is grown in the Province of Buenos Aires.

Exports for the first 2 months of the new season up to November 30 amounted to 29,313,000 pounds grease and scoured wool combined. This is a decrease of 9 percent below the same period last year,but an increase of 4 percent as compared with the preceding 5-year average of 28,000,000 pounds. Much of the wool exported so far has been wool produced last year (1933-34).

Australia

Wool stocks at selling centers on November 30 were unusually large. Whereas there was an increase of 5 percent in receipts of wool for the 5 months of the season up to November 30, disposals decreased 31 percent as compared with the first 5 months of last season. In a normal season November is the month of heaviest disposals. This year during that month disposals amounted to only 113,000,000 pounds compared with 133,000,000 pounds in November 1933.

Receipts of the current season clip at selling centers for the first 5 months of the season up to November 30 amounted to 680,000,000 pounds which was an increase of 5 percent above the quantity reported a year earlier and 2 percent above the succeeding 5-year average for that period.

Disposals of current clip wool have been relatively small, amounting to only 259,000,000 pounds or about 38 percent of receipts, compared with 377,000,000 pounds a year earlier or 58 percent of receipts. The average quantity disposed of during this period for the years 1928 to 1932 was 295,000,000 pounds or 44 percent of receipts. In addition to disposals of current clip wool this season, about 50,000,000 pounds of wool carried over from 1933-34 has been sold or shipped from Australia.

Stocks of current clip wool on hand at the end of November 1934, were much larger than usual. They amounted to 421,000,000 pounds which was an increase of 57 percent above the same date of 1933 and 13 percent above the preceding 5-year average. During the period that the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers' have been operating, i.e. 1921 to date, stocks at selling centers on November 30 never exceeded that quantity. Previous to this year, the largest quantity of wool of the current season on hand at the end of November was 393,000,000 pounds, in 1929. At that time the carry-over from the preceding season was very small. This year the amount of old clip wool still on hand at the end of November was about 14,000,000 pounds. However, the stock held by the British Australian Wool Realization Association in Australia at the end of November 1920 reached approximately 600,000,000 pounds which consisted of wool which had accumulated for several seasons.

Australian wool exports for the first 5 months of the current season up to November 30 have been unusually small, amounting to only 260,000,000 pounds. This is a decrease of 35 percent compared with the corresponding period of 1933 and a 17 percent decrease compared with the average for the preceding 5 years for the same period.

The scarcity of spring lambs combined with some anxiety concerning summer (December - February) feed prospects and the uncertain wool outlook has resulted in a heavier marketing of fat sheep than is customary at this time of year (Spring, September - November ).

New Zealand

The movement of wool during the first 5 months of the 1934-35 season, i.e. up to the end of November has been considerably less than during the same period last season, but offerings and sales so far have been heavier than in the corresponding period of 1932. Offerings at selling centers during the first 5 months of the season amounted to about 8,639,000 pounds or a little less than half the quantity offered during the same period last season. Sales for the same period this season amounted to 6,184,000 pounds and were only about 36 percent as large as a year earlier. In 1932-33, however, both offerings and sales were under 3,000,000 pounds for the same period.

Exports up to November 30 amounted to 21,033,000 pounds and were 47 percent smaller than for the same period of 1933 and 24 percent below the average for the same period of the 5 years 1928 to 1932.

Union of South Africa

The widespread and plentiful rains of October somewhat relieved the situation in those sections where drought conditions were prevailing in the early spring (September). Locusts were still a menace as large swarms were reported as hatching in several districts of all Provinces. Very little damage has been reported so far however.

Receipts of wool at ports by rail for the first 5 months of the new season up to November 30 were considerably smaller than for the same period last season. This is partly due to a smaller clip and partly to the fact that owners have been slow in shipping to market, owing to uncertainty concerning the private negotiations being carried on for financing German purchases and also the South African Government's scheme to aid growers. The recent decision of the Government to assist growers by means of guaranteed advances through the commercial banks is expected to result in increased receipts and disposals during the coming months. Latest reports indicate that sellers are still hesitating to make large offerings of wool pending an official announcement regarding direct business with Germany. For the first 5 months of the season receipts at ports amounted to 72,000,000 pounds and were 33 percent below the same period last season.

Exports show an even greater falling off than receipts, the total for the 5 months period being 45,000,000 pounds , a decrease of 45 percent as compared with the same period of 1933 and 42 percent as compared with the preceding 5-year average. Unsold stocks at ports at the end of November were officially reported at 44,000,000 pounds and were over three times as large as on the same date a year ago. On November 30,1931 stocks were still larger, being reported at 65,000,000 pounds on that date.

Wool, combing and clothing: Consumption by manufacturers, grease basis, United States, 1920-1934 1/

| Year | Domestic | Foreign | Total | Domestic | Foreign |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | Percent | Percent |
| 1920 | 249,550 | 236,887 | 486,437 | 51.3 | 48.7 |
| 1921 | 295,431 | 169,245 | 464,676 | 63.6 | 36.4 |
| 1922 | 380,196 | 145,971 | 526,167 | 72.3 | 27.7 |
| 1923 | 253,987 | 237,131 | 491,118 | 51.7 | 48.3 |
| 1924 | 285,343 | 127,070 | 412,413 | 69.2 | 30.8 |
| 1925 | 272,090 | 119,461 | 391,551 | 69.5 | 30.5 |
| 1926 | 253,871 | 130,831 | 384,702 | 66.0 | 34.0 |
| 1927 | 320,271 | 102,862 | 423,133 | 75.7 | 24.3 |
| 1928 | 334,178 | 69,140 | 403,318 | 82.9 | 17.1 |
| 1929 | 343,261 | 84,956 | 428,217 | 80.2 | 19.8 |
| 1930 | 280,265 | 64,692 | 344,957 | 81.2 | 18.8 |
| 1931 | 371,016 | 43,278 | 414,294 | 89.6 | 10.4 |
| 1932 | 313,689 | 16,616 | 330,305 | 95.0 | 5.0 |
| 1933 | 396,443 | 25,213 | 421,656 | 94.0 | 6.0 |
| Jan.-June | | | | | |
| 1932 | 114,632 | 10,903 | 125,535 | 91.3 | 8.7 |
| 1933 | 186,506 | 6,542 | 193,048 | 96.6 | 3.4 |
| 1934 | 121,529 | 16,756 | 138,285 | 87.9 | 12.1 |

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Wool Consumption Reports issued by the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Figures reported by the Bureau of the Census were converted to a grease basis by using representative yields varying with grade, condition, and origin of wool. Figures for 1920 and 1921 are for all United States manufacturers. Beginning in April 1922 no estimates were included for manufacturers who failed to report and figures represent only 75 to 80 percent of the industry.

Wool, combing and clothing: Consumption by manufacturers, by grades, grease basis, United States, 1920-1934 1/

| Year | 64s, 70s, 80s (fine) | 58s - 60s (1/2 blood) | 56s (3/8 blood) | 48s - 50s (1/4 blood) | 36s - 46s (low or Lincoln) 2/ | Total combing and clothing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds |
| 1920 | 171,510 | 91,729 | 96,345 | 108,023 | 18,830 | 486,437 |
| 1921 | 138,852 | 87,716 | 95,319 | 126,767 | 16,022 | 464,676 |
| 1922 | 132,198 | 102,803 | 119,432 | 148,129 | 23,605 | 526,167 |
| 1923 | 127,502 | 88,206 | 108,230 | 136,910 | 30,270 | 491,118 |
| 1924 | 127,416 | 75,925 | 86,536 | 91,498 | 31,038 | 412,413 |
| 1925 | 123,217 | 71,757 | 83,045 | 85,535 | 27,997 | 391,551 |
| 1926 | 118,684 | 67,508 | 83,010 | 81,277 | 34,223 | 384,702 |
| 1927 | 139,547 | 77,144 | 82,759 | 79,731 | 43,952 | 423,133 |
| 1928 | 138,842 | 82,287 | 76,411 | 73,944 | 31,834 | 403,318 |
| 1929 | 164,413 | 82,879 | 77,742 | 69,921 | 33,262 | 428,217 |
| 1930 | 153,078 | 67,240 | 52,688 | 48,905 | 23,046 | 344,957 |
| 1931 | 171,249 | 85,258 | 76,092 | 56,496 | 25,199 | 414,294 |
| 1932 | 134,840 | 71,761 | 58,113 | 48,415 | 17,176 | 330,305 |
| 1933 | 185,407 | 80,891 | 72,368 | 55,699 | 27,291 | 421,656 |
| Jan.-June | | | | | | |
| 1932 | 47,614 | 27,115 | 22,260 | 20,392 | 8,154 | 125,535 |
| 1933 | 86,327 | 37,826 | 33,870 | 24,270 | 10,755 | 193,048 |
| 1934 | 50,579 | 25,348 | 27,277 | 20,948 | 14,133 | 138,285 |

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Wool Consumption Reports issued by the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Figures reported by the Bureau of the Census were converted to a grease basis by using representative yields varying with grade, condition, and origin of wool. Figures for 1920 and 1921 are for all United States manufacturers. Beginning in April 1922 no estimates are included for manufacturers who failed to report and figures represent only 75 to 80 percent of the industry.

2/ Includes domestic and foreign low 1/4 blood domestic common and braid and foreign Lincoln.

Wool, combing and clothing: Consumption by manufacturers, by grades as a percentage of the total, grease basis, United States, 1920-1934 1/

| Year | 64s, 70s, 80s (Fine) | 58s, 60s (1/2 blood) | 56s (3/8 blood) | 48s, 50s (1/4 blood) | 36s, 46s(2/: Low or Lincoln) | Total combing and clothing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 1920 .... | 35.3 | 18.8 | 19.8 | 22.2 | 3.9 | 100.0 |
| 1921 .... | 29.9 | 18.9 | 20.5 | 27.3 | 3.4 | 100.0 |
| 1922 .... | 25.1 | 19.5 | 22.7 | 28.2 | 4.5 | 100.0 |
| 1923 .... | 26.0 | 17.9 | 22.0 | 27.9 | 6.2 | 100.0 |
| 1924 .... | 30.9 | 18.4 | 21.0 | 22.2 | 7.5 | 100.0 |
| 1925 .... | 31.5 | 18.3 | 21.2 | 21.8 | 7.2 | 100.0 |
| 1926 .... | 30.9 | 17.5 | 21.6 | 21.1 | 8.9 | 100.0 |
| 1927 .... | 33.0 | 18.2 | 19.6 | 18.8 | 10.4 | 100.0 |
| 1928 .... | 34.4 | 20.4 | 19.0 | 18.3 | 7.9 | 100.0 |
| 1929 .... | 38.4 | 19.3 | 18.2 | 16.3 | 7.8 | 100.0 |
| 1930 .... | 44.4 | 19.5 | 15.2 | 14.2 | 6.7 | 100.0 |
| 1931 .... | 41.3 | 20.6 | 18.4 | 13.6 | 6.1 | 100.0 |
| 1932 .... | 40.8 | 21.7 | 17.6 | 14.7 | 5.2 | 100.0 |
| 1933 .... | 44.0 | 19.2 | 17.1 | 13.2 | 6.5 | 100.0 |
| Jan.-June: | | | | | | |
| 1932 .... | 37.9 | 21.6 | 17.7 | 16.3 | 6.5 | 100.0 |
| 1933 .... | 44.7 | 19.6 | 17.5 | 12.6 | 5.6 | 100.0 |
| 1934 .... | 36.6 | 18.3 | 19.7 | 15.2 | 10.2 | 100.0 |

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Wool Consumption Reports issued by the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Figures reported by the Bureau of the Census were converted to a grease basis by using representative yields varying with grade, condition, and origin of wool. Figures for 1920 and 1921 are for all United States manufacturers. Beginning in April 1922 no estimates are included for manufacturers who failed to report and figures represent only 75 to 80 percent of the industry.

2/ Includes domestic and foreign low 1/4 blood domestic common and braid and foreign Lincoln.

Wool, domestic: Consumption by manufacturers, by grades, grease basis, United States, 1920-1934 1/

| Year | 64s, 70s, 80s (Fine) | 58s, 60s (1/2 blood) | 56s (3/8 blood) | 48s, 50s (1/4 blood) | 36s, 46s 2/ | Total combing and clothing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds | 1,000 pounds |
| 1920 | 79,122 | 56,714 | 61,233 | 48,081 | 4,400 | 249,550 |
| 1921 | 84,147 | 68,982 | 69,117 | 67,718 | 5,467 | 295,431 |
| 1922 | 103,755 | 83,245 | 91,589 | 92,375 | 9,232 | 380,196 |
| 1923 | 63,180 | 52,600 | 64,389 | 62,158 | 11,660 | 253,987 |
| 1924 | 89,050 | 59,801 | 67,022 | 56,154 | 13,316 | 285,343 |
| 1925 | 88,217 | 58,111 | 64,893 | 50,487 | 10,382 | 272,090 |
| 1926 | 81,601 | 50,409 | 61,678 | 49,220 | 10,963 | 253,871 |
| 1927 | 109,126 | 64,688 | 70,964 | 61,837 | 13,656 | 320,271 |
| 1928 | 119,847 | 75,670 | 67,893 | 59,148 | 12,120 | 334,178 |
| 1929 | 147,075 | 71,113 | 62,707 | 50,584 | 11,782 | 343,261 |
| 1930 | 132,942 | 57,753 | 43,781 | 36,194 | 9,595 | 280,265 |
| 1931 | 155,114 | 78,507 | 71,467 | 50,958 | 14,970 | 371,016 |
| 1932 | 129,063 | 68,914 | 56,562 | 46,042 | 13,108 | 313,689 |
| 1933 | 177,953 | 78,514 | 70,418 | 51,171 | 18,387 | 396,443 |
| Jan.-June | | | | | | |
| 1932 | 43,850 | 24,874 | 21,328 | 18,979 | 5,601 | 114,632 |
| 1933 | 84,193 | 37,162 | 33,468 | 22,976 | 8,707 | 186,506 |
| 1934 | 48,233 | 23,702 | 24,782 | 17,389 | 7,423 | 121,529 |

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Wool Consumption Reports issued by the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Figures reported by the Bureau of the Census were converted to a grease basis by using representative yields varying with grade, condition, and origin of wool. Figures for 1920 and 1921 are for all United States manufacturers. Beginning in April 1922 no estimates are included for manufacturers who failed to report and figures represent only 75 to 80 percent of the industry.
2/ Includes low 1/4 blood, common and braid.

Wool, domestic: Consumption by manufacturers, by grades as a percentage of the total, grease basis, United States 1920 - 1934 1/

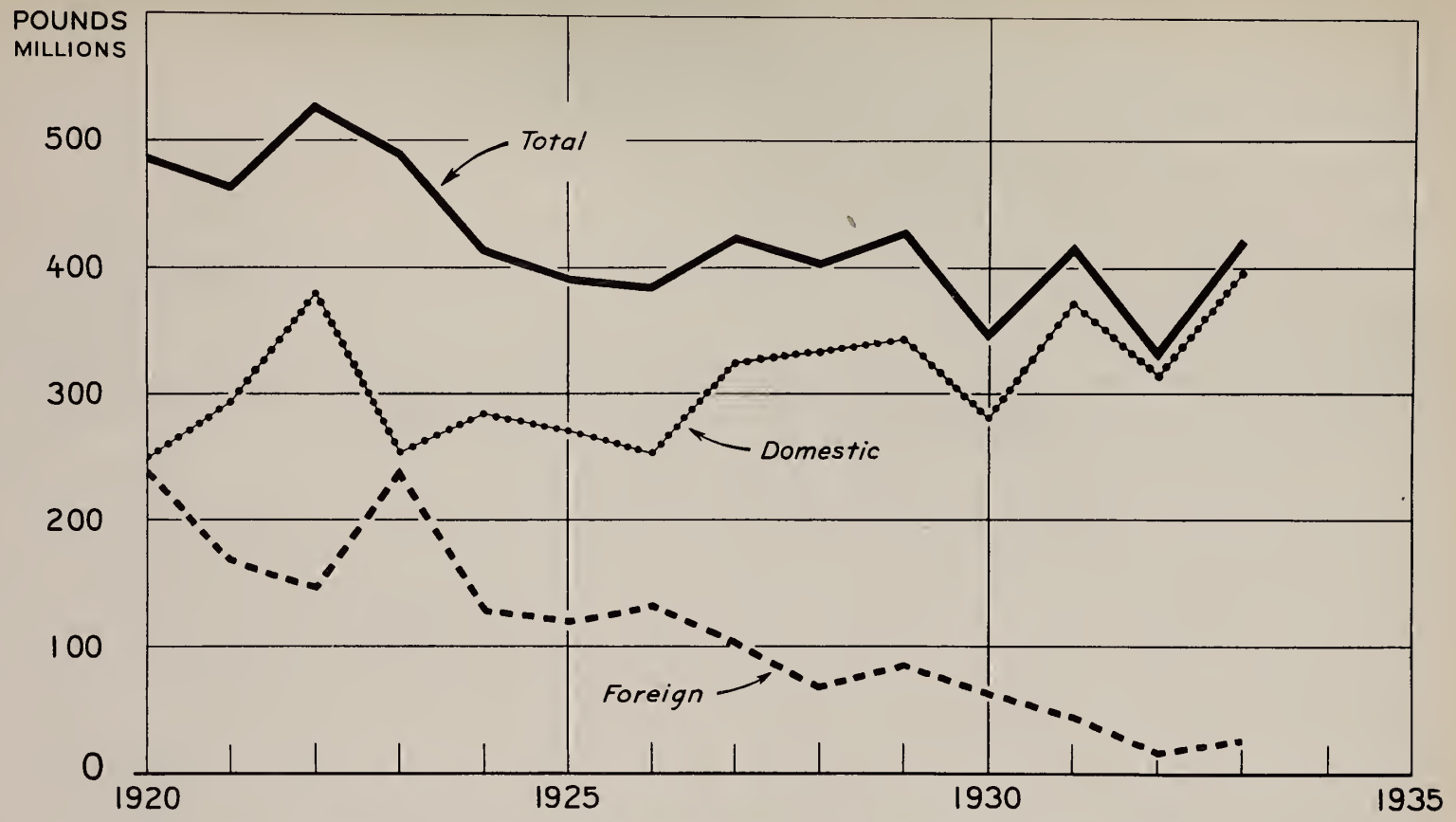
| Year | 64s, 70s, 80s (Fine) | 58s, 60s, (1/2 blood) | 56s (3/8 blood) | 48s, 50s, (1/4 blood) | 36s - 46s 2/ | Total combing & clothing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| 1920 | 31.7 | 22.7 | 24.5 | 19.3 | 1.8 | 100.0 |
| 1921 | 28.5 | 23.3 | 23.4 | 22.9 | 1.9 | 100.0 |
| 1922 | 27.3 | 21.9 | 24.1 | 24.3 | 2.4 | 100.0 |
| 1923 | 24.9 | 20.7 | 25.3 | 24.5 | 4.6 | 100.0 |
| 1924 | 31.2 | 20.9 | 23.5 | 19.7 | 4.7 | 100.0 |
| 1925 | 32.4 | 21.4 | 23.8 | 18.6 | 3.8 | 100.0 |
| 1926 | 32.1 | 19.9 | 24.3 | 19.4 | 4.3 | 100.0 |
| 1927 | 34.1 | 20.2 | 22.1 | 19.3 | 4.3 | 100.0 |
| 1928 | 35.7 | 22.7 | 20.3 | 17.7 | 3.6 | 100.0 |
| 1929 | 42.9 | 20.7 | 18.3 | 14.7 | 3.4 | 100.0 |
| 1930 | 47.5 | 20.6 | 15.6 | 12.9 | 3.4 | 100.0 |
| 1931 | 41.8 | 21.2 | 19.3 | 13.7 | 4.0 | 100.0 |
| 1932 | 41.1 | 22.0 | 18.0 | 14.7 | 4.2 | 100.0 |
| 1933 | 44.9 | 19.8 | 17.8 | 12.9 | 4.6 | 100.0 |
| Jan. - June | | | | | | |
| 1932 | 38.2 | 21.7 | 18.6 | 16.6 | 4.9 | 100.0 |
| 1933 | 45.1 | 19.9 | 18.0 | 12.3 | 4.7 | 100.0 |
| 1934 | 39.7 | 19.5 | 20.4 | 14.3 | 6.1 | 100.0 |

Division of Statistical and Historical Research. Compiled from Wool Consumption Reports issued by the Bureau of the Census.

1/ Figures reported by the Bureau of the Census were converted to a grease basis by using representative yields varying with grade, condition, and origin of wool. Figures for 1920 and 1921 are for all United States manufacturers. Beginning in April 1922 no estimates are included for manufacturers who failed to report and figures represent only 75 to 80 percent of the industry.

2/ Includes low 1/4 blood common and braid.

# WOOL, COMBING AND CLOTHING (GREASE BASIS): CONSUMPTION BY MANUFACTURERS, UNITED STATES, 1920 TO DATE




*FROM 1922 TO 1933, FIGURES REPRESENT ONLY 75 TO 80 PERCENT OF THE INDUSTRY*

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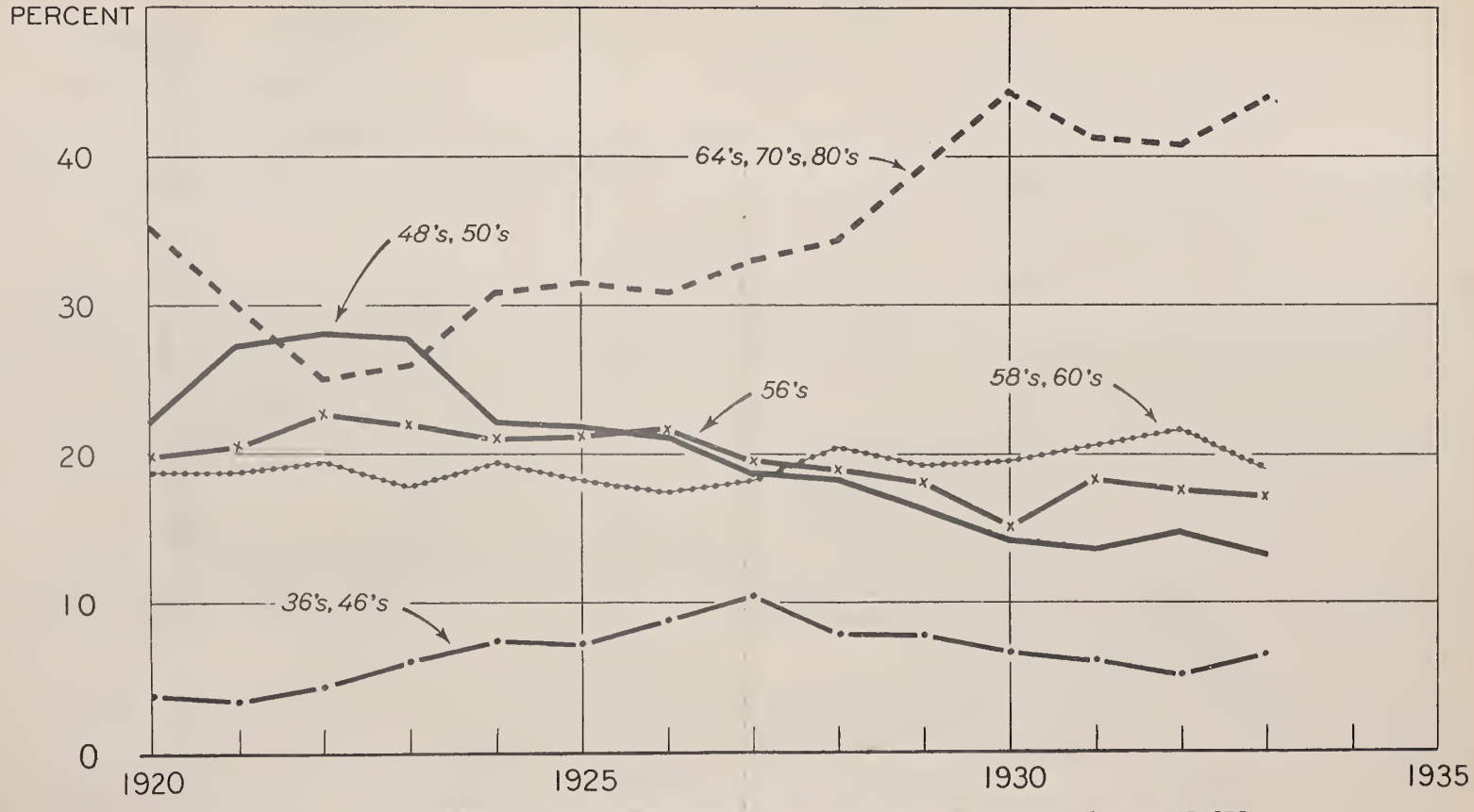
FIGURE 1 - THE TREND OF CONSUMPTION OF COMBING AND CLOTHING WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN DOWNWARD SINCE 1922 WITH THE GREATEST DECREASE OCCURRING PRIOR TO 1926. THE DECLINE HAS BEEN ENTIRELY IN THE CONSUMPTION OF FOREIGN WOOL AS A MARKED INCREASE IN WOOL PRODUCTION IN THIS COUNTRY SINCE 1922 HAS RESULTED IN AN INCREASE IN THE CONSUMPTION OF DOMESTIC WOOL.

WOOL, COMBING AND CLOTHING (GREASE BASIS): CONSUMPTION BY MANUFACTURERS, BY GRADES, AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL, UNITED STATES, 1920 TO DATE




FROM 1922 TO 1933, BASED ON FIGURES REPRESENTING ONLY 75 TO 80 PERCENT OF THE INDUSTRY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 28278 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

FIGURE 2 - THE PROPORTION OF FINE WOOLS IN THE CONSUMPTION OF COMBING AND CLOTHING WOOL BY UNITED STATES MILLS HAS INCREASED RAPIDLY SINCE 1922. IN 1933 WOOLS GRADING 58'S, 60'S, AND FINER REPRESENTED 63 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. THE PROPORTION OF WOOL GRADING 48'S AND 50'S (1/4 BLOOD) CONSUMED HAS DECLINED SHARPLY IN THE LAST DECADE BUT THE PROPORTION OF OTHER GRADES CONSUMED HAS NOT CHANGED GREATLY.